RALEIGH

1733

Sir *W-l-r Ra-l-gh*'s Ghoft,

Which appear'd to Sir *R--t*, at his Houſe in St. *James's-Square*; with his Reprimand for laying New Impoſts on Tobacco, which he firſt introduc'd into *England*.

THE terrible Apprehenſions which Nature is alarmed with at the Appearance of Spectres and Apparitions, have for ſome Ages furniſhed moſt curious Scrutinies, as well into the Cauſes as Realities of thoſe tremendous Viſions: And that ſuch Things have been, is evident, both from Chriſtian and Pagan Antiquities; nor needs there any ſtrained Argument to confirm the Certainty of the Queſtion, where Reaſon and Probability ſo ſtrenuouſly combine to ſupport it.

On Monday Morning, between One and Two o'Clock, a ſtrange and ſurprizing Rumbling was heard quite thro' Sir Politick Wou'dbee's Houſe, in St. James's-Square; the Servants were all alarmed as if the Houſe had been beſet or filled with Robbers, each ſeized on his Cutlace or Carbine to defend the Treaſure, Plate and Jewels, which had been ſo long the Purchaſe of his honeſt Endeavours; but immediately the Noiſe ceaſed, and was ſucceeded by whole Sheets of Smoke, which diffuſed a fœtid Smell, noxious as the Vapours which riſe from Lake Avernus. Sir Politick ſurprized at ſo uncommon and ſhocking an Accident, ſummoned all his Courage, examined his Scrutore, matched all his Tallies, run thro' his Bills, Bonds and Inſtruments of Conveyance, but to his great Satisfaction found nothing miſſing but a rough Draught of the Excile Project; which, as it frequently ſuffered Martyrdom of the Pen, and had been interlined with ten thouſand Variations, he judged would be of as little Significance to others as himſelf; therefore reſting contented, he ordered all to their Chambers, and marched up directly to his own grand Appartment. He no ſooner approached the Bedſide, but his Ears were alarmed with the ſeeming Groans of a Perſon in the moſt agonizing Pains; his Complexion changed, his Hands trembled, and his very Soul for ſome Moments loſt the Faculty of Projection: He looked all about but ſaw nothing, till directed by the Voice, he made towards the Sound, which ſeemed to proceed from his Cabinet of Invention: He opened the Door, but ſure never was poor Mortal before ſo terrified; from his great Velvet Chair roſe up the Ghoſt of Sir W---- R----, crowned with a Garland of green Tobacco, with this Inſcription in Golden Letters, I have firſt introduced this Weed, and may it flouriſh. He ſeemed ſupported by two of the moſt celebrated Tobacconiſts of the preſent Age, robed all in Sables; in his Mouth was a Weſt-India Pipe, to which his Right-hand applied a flaming Libel, with this Motto, Exploded and Condemned. Sir Politick inſtantly recollected the Loſs of his Scheme, and ſoon knew by what inviſible Methods it vaniſhed: Tho' extremely confounded, he would fain have queſtioned him in the Name of, &c, but his Hear failed him, and his Speech ſeemed interrupted by broken Accents, and being eſtranged to all Form of Prayer and Exoration, he adjured him only in the Name of his black Attendants, to ſpecify what Particulars could raiſe him from the Infernals, and furniſh him with this Occaſion of Horrour and Self Conviction: To whom the Ghoſt; I am come from the Elyſian Fields, where all thy baffled Projects have reached mine Ears; where every Shade that arrives from the terraqueous Globe, brings Bundles of Accuſations againſt you; and behold (here he ſtretched forth his Right-hand) the glaring Guilt of thy pernicious Counſels; ſee with what Pains, but how in vain, thou wouldſt eſtabliſh Innovation, treſpaſs on the Properties of thy Fellow-ſubjects, and endeavour to reconcile (what was never before attempted) the jarring Contradictions of Servitude and Freedom: The grim Monarch of our Abodes has iſſued Orders for your Reception, and all the Ghoſts adjudged to Puniſhment, will, for ſome Time, enjoy Intermiſſion from Pain on your Arrival; Tantalus, Prometheus, Syſiphus and Ixion, confeſs thy Machinations have outdone their Attempts: In ſhort Hell is in an Uproar, and waits thee with Impatience. Then know, bold Mortal, that thy Penalty's decreed, the Furies have new laſhed their Whips with Scorpions, and a capacious Snuff mill is juſt erected to employ thy Labour to Perpetuity, by grinding Mundungus to regale the Noſtrils of our Highland Shades: Our Merchants have ſupplicated great Pluto to interdict all Commerce between thee and his Subjects of the infernal Regions; even Charon's Fees are retrenched to prevent new Impoſts on the Souls which ferry over; therefore retire, and let the Shame and Confuſion which thou art involv'd in ſo juſtly in this World, confirm thee of what Rewards thou ſhalt ſurely meet below; but the Dawn approaches, and forbids my longer Stay: With that he lifted up his Hand, and with ſupercilious Brow and ſower Grimace, thrice ſtruck him o'er the Head with plaitted Stalks. The Phantom vaniſhed, but the indelible Marks of Infamy were ſo deeply imprinted on Sir Politick's Face, that no hireling Art of Vindication will ever extenuate thoſe Offences which ſo juſtly tranſmit his Memory to the Cenſure and Reſentment of future Ages. It is impoſſible to ſuggeſt with what Reſignation he ſubmitted to Rebuke; how Pride and Reflection ſtuggled with Admonition; howe'er he withdrew moſt viſibly diſcompos'd, and 'tis hoped, tho' publick Remonſtrances may not ſo immediately affect ſo haughty a Diſpoſition, yet in Regard to ſome inward Conflicts, he may have Grace to repent, and attone for the Diſpleaſure of the People, which ſo manifeſtly appears by ſundry Accuſations hourly exhibited againſt a Conduct ſo flagrantly vicious and arraignable.

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